

GILL SPRING

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Furry 5K Race Registration Form!



Furry 5K Needs Sponsors, Runners, Walkers By Alan Ward

The **Furry 5K** is not an exotic bug from the Brazilian rainforest, but it does have 6,000 legs, barks, pants and raises lots of money for veterinary care for sick, injured and abused animals at the Seattle Animal Shelter.

Planning is well underway for the 2nd annual **Furry 5K** (3.1 mile run/walk), happening June 10, 2001 at 9 a.m. at Seward Park in Seattle. More than 2,000 runners/walkers, 400 dogs, and at least 1 cat are expected to participate in this year's event. The goal is to raise at least \$40,000 for the shelter's **Help the Animals Fund.** Entry fees will be \$20 for those who preregister, and \$25 for day of race registrations.

Financial assistance is needed to help cover expenses for this first-class event. Sponsorship levels are as follows:

Presenting Sponsor \$15,000 Associate Sponsor \$10,000

Supporting Sponsor \$5,000

In-Kind \$1,000–\$4,500

 $\textbf{Distinguished Dog Donor} \quad \$2,\!000$

Critter Club \$1,000

IDE:



Seattle's shelter for homeless and lost and found pets is located on 15th Avenue West one mile south of the Ballard Bridge.

HOURS

Tues-Sat: Noon-6 p.m. Sun: Noon-4 p.m.

PHONE

(206) 386-4254 ext. 2

WEB SITE

cityofseattle.net/rca/animal

Second Annual Furry 5K
Fun Run & Walk
(with your dog!)
June 10
Seward Park
9 a.m.
www.furry5k.com

Be sure to tell your family, friends, co-workers, and even your enemies about the **Furry 5K**. As the starter pistol sounds, the pounding paws, flopping feet, and maybe even some hooves could cause a 6.8-plus reading on the Richter scale! Be sure you are there to witness this event first hand. There will be good food, festive music, collectors-quality t-shirts, random prizes, friendly pets and lots of smiling faces for everyone to enjoy.

On the serious side, the **Help the Animals Fund** desperately needs your support. More than \$100,000 is needed each year for veterinary care to help animals overcome abuse and neglect. You will feel good, knowing that your support gave an animal a chance to live a happy, healthy life. So, RUN FOR THEIR LIVES, and join us June 10.

To view the sponsorship packet, go to www.furry5k.com or call (206) 615-0820. Look for your race registration form inside in this newsletter!

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

City Council Funds New Volunteer Coordinator Position By Don Jordan

For more than 10 years the concept of a volunteer program at our shelter was just an idea. Something we talked about at



meetings. About 4 years ago, we began to deal with some of the obstacles that prevented us from moving forward with such a program. Once negotiations with unions and insurance liability questions were worked out, we solicited volunteers. Two special people, Christine Titus and Anne Treadwell, volunteered to work with our shelter supervisor and staff to put people to work who wanted to volunteer at our shelter. Thanks to Christine and Anne's hard work, the work of our staff, and many many more volunteers, a program that had approximately 9 volunteers during its first year has now grown to more than 400 volunteers with more than 23 different programs.

The volunteers who work with these programs are so valuable to us, we can't imagine not having them! Shelter dogs are walked daily, animals are groomed, money is raised to provide vet care to sick or injured animals, special adoption events are held, cats are petted, animals are placed in foster homes until the right home can be found, sick animals are being rehabilitated, and pictures of animals available for adoption are posted on the web. Lives are being saved!

Last year, it became apparent that the program needed a paid staff person to oversee it in order for it to continue to be successful and keep growing. Due to the overwhelming success of the Volunteer Program—it's statistics and popularity with the community—the Seattle City Council funded a Volunteer Program Coordinator in our 2001 budget.

Needless to say, we were very excited to get this position and we are currently in the process of hiring. We plan to reach even further into the community and create education programs where volunteers can go to Seattle schools to teach children about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. We expect that our program will continue to thrive and grow and volunteers will get the guidance and support they need.

I feel very grateful to have been a part of developing and implementing a volunteer program at the Seattle Animal Shelter. It is so rewarding to see a dream become reality. But mostly, it is a very good thing indeed to see animals' lives saved and to be able to provide the best care possible to those animals entrusted to us. Our hope is that we will never have to turn back time and be a shelter without volunteers. Our lives as well as thousands the lives of animals have been enriched by the generous donations of time, money and loving care we've received from our volunteers. We feel we are moving in the right direction toward making sure every adoptable animal finds a permanent, loving home. I hope you agree!



SHELTER WINS \$20,000 GRANT FROM PETS.COM

Most Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) volunteers will tell you that caring for homeless animals is its own reward. Last fall, however, their hard work also paid off in cash for the shelter animals. Pets.com awarded a \$20,000 grant to SAS for its outstanding volunteer program as part of the national Heroes of Pets commitment program. All of the grant goes to the **Help the Animals Fund,** which pays for veterinary costs to rehabilitate sick, injured, or abused animals.

Pets.com sponsored the national contest in which animals-helping-people or people-helping-animals organizations could apply for grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Grantees were selected based on stories written by volunteers about their favorite experiences and the number of volunteer hours logged.

SAS volunteers won the top prize of \$20,000 by sharing in writing their passions for working with the shelter animals and logging more than 10,000 hours (in under 10 months). When asked to explain one word that captured their volunteer experiences, several wrote:

"Privileged. I feel so lucky each day to be able to go to the shelter and handle the dogs and work with the other amazing volunteers and staff. It is truly an honor!" —Jennie

"Rewarding. I get so much love from these cats, and it's great to see cats adopted or sick cats getting well. A lot of visitors to the shelter ask me how I can do it, isn't it depressing, etc. But I think it's the exact opposite of depressing. I really didn't expect to find so many gentle, loving cats (even abused cats have an amazing potential to love and be kind)." —Christine

"Invigorating. The people are spectacular, the dogs give you direct emotional feedback; you always feel like you're doing something good for the community and others and it's just one big mental high." —Greg

Thank you Pets.com for honoring our volunteer program in this way and to the more than 400 volunteers who spend countless hours grooming, exercising, promoting, and rehabilitating the animals.

SHELTER STATS January 1-March 31	2000	2001
DOGS ADOPTED	256	293
CATS ADOPTED	301	302
ANIMALS RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS	267	269
ADOPTABLE DOGS EUTHANIZED*	2	0
ADOPTABLE CATS EUTHANIZED*	1	0

*Our current definition of "adoptable" is any animal that is healthy and passes a required temperment test. We place many potentially adoptable dogs and cats into foster homes so that they can receive the essential training, care, and medical attention so that they become adoptable.

Abe, Yogi, Bandit, Gracie, Spikey, and Charlotte

SAS SPEAKERS BUREAU

Speaks for those who can't!

With the production of our first ever video on the Help the Animals Fund we have formed our first Speaker's Bureau. We are now officially available to meet with your organization to share our vision and goal of providing veterinary care for every abused, sick or injured animal at the Seattle Animal Shelter. Perhaps you have heard about how the shelter is saving more lives than ever. Is your organization looking for a way to support this effort and give back to the community? If you would like to hear more about the SAS Speakers Bureau or would like to invite us to speak to your group, please call Christine Titus at (206) 615-0820.

This mission is humanitarian based solely. We do not have any political agendas or affiliations.

THE "BUCK" STOPS HERE

Very Special Homeless Dog Escapes from Shelter but Decides to Return on His Own

We named him Buck when he arrived at the shelter. It had taken SAS Officer Tim Rollins two weeks to catch this black shepherd who had been living on the streets and eating from garbage cans. He displayed signs of long-term abuse as he quivered with fear and was extremely hand shy. He slowly began to recover when he was showered with love from dedicated volunteers. Buck joined in with the regular routines at the shelter...being walked by volunteers and taken to our canine corral. One day while out playing in the corral, Buck jumped the 6-foot fence! He took off for the fields behind the shelter and wandered throughout the Magnolia hillside.

While Buck hadn't been at the shelter very long he had made a few good friends who did not want him to be roaming in the wind, rain and cold without food and shelter. Volunteers and staff went on a mission to find this black shepherd in the dark and left him food near a footpath where he had been seen. Neighbors would call animal control to report that he had been "spotted" and then quickly vanished under the veil of night. While we never gave up, things were not looking too good after 3 days and nights in the cold and rain.

Things at the shelter went on as usual. Volunteers continued to walk the dogs. Then one night Buck was spotted by the railroad tracks right behind the shelter! The staff was quickly alerted and were off in a flash to see if they could catch him. Staffperson Ann Graves climbed a fence, cut her hands, and ripped her pants trying to get to him, but he quickly retreated. What's the best way to catch a dog? Don't chase him. Officer Graves decided that sitting and waiting might be the best thing to do. Sure enough Buck began to circle her as she was seated, and she quietly slipped her hand into his collar as he walked near her. Whew. Back to the shelter they went. Buck had decided that the real estate was too expensive in Magnolia, and frankly the food was much better at the shelter.

It soon became clear that Buck was going to require a special home with someone who would take the time to socialize him and provide lots of TLC. Officer Graves' own dog had just died, and it



Alan Ward, Buck, and Ann Graves

seemed that perhaps Buck might be able to help her overcome her grief. So she took Buck home with her that night.

Buck now goes to obedience school, lies on the couch and periodically runs with one of his favorite volunteers on the Get Fit with Fido Volunteer Program. "He now runs with more German Shepherd spirit, as Buck regains his confidence," says Alan Ward, Team Leader for **Get Fit with Fido**.

Each animal that comes into the shelter has its own story and there are many happy endings. Buck's story is just one of many. There are many SAS volunteers who work with animals that need special attention. Do we always spend this much energy on one animal? If they need it, we do.

Christine Titus

SUCCESS STORIES



Morris was surrendered to the shelter after 13 years of living with his owners because "he sheds too much." To make matters worse, Morris came down with a "kitty cold" (upper respiratory infection) shortly after he arrived at the shelter. Luckily a foster home was ready to take him in. Morris spent several months with his foster mom. His picture was on the SAS web site, but he was

passed up for kittens and younger cats. His foster mom had patience, knowing that someone was bound to appreciate him for the mellow, wise, and affectionate cat that he is. Just when we were about to give up hope and accept the fact that Morris would have to come back to the shelter to have any chance of being adopted, the call came! A very nice woman—looking specifically for a goodnatured, older male cat to be a companion to her older female cat—fell in love with Morris' picture on the web and wanted to meet him right away. She and her husband met Morris, and it was a match made in heaven. They adopted him that day and now he's in his forever home.



Sable, the absolute perfect dog (she loves children, cats, dogs, and people), was surrendered to the shelter in October. Staff found her to be a very easy going and a highly "adoptable" dog. They also found that she had a serious knee injury that would probably require surgery. Staff and volunteers immediately got to work. Sable was placed in a foster home and volunteers raised \$1,200 for her surgery. The surgery was performed at a reduced price by **Animal Surgical Clinic of Seattle.** Sable recovered with the help of her foster mom and then was adopted by a wonderful young couple ,who adored Sable at first sight. They plan to continue her physical therapy (which consists of daily swims) and give her the loving home that she deserves.



Kodi and Sheba, eight-year old littermates, were surrendered to the shelter because their owner no longer had time for them. These two were quite the characters and immediately won the hearts of staff and volunteers. A campaign was launched to find these two a home—together! This effort was not an easy task since they had three strikes against them—they were older, large, and had lots of energy. But thanks to the folks at www.petshelter.net, who posted this photo and their story on its home page, a family from Oregon drove several hours to meet Kodi and Sheba and take them to their new home. We are happy to report that Kodi and Sheba are thriving in Oregon. They live on a few acres of land and love playing in a nearby river. Their new mom says, "It feels like they have always been a part of our family. They are both very affectionate and good-natured. They are always ready for a walk or a run. Sheba is a little craftier about figuring out new things; Kodi is much more likely to just plunge joyfully ahead. Next Saturday we'll celebrate their ninth birthday. We feel very lucky to have them as part of our family."



Flash was rescued from the stadium construction area at the old Kingdome site by a good samaritan construction worker in early November. We're not sure how it happened, but his tail had been completely cut off! He was brought to the vet, and then placed into a loving Seattle Animal Shelter foster home (Julie Miller), where he was able to recover and get lots of attention from his foster family. His tail recovered beautifully, and Flash was adopted by a wonderful family in December, where he is now living happily with his new mom and dad and a Doberman-Irish setter-mix, cat-friendly canine in Monroe.

ANTI-CRUELTY CAMPAIGN

SAS FIGHTS ANIMAL ABUSE

Success Stories

Dandy lived for several months at the end of a two-foot-long chain that was tied to the bars outside a basement window. He had no food, water, or shelter when the Seattle Animal Control officers arrived on the scene in October 2000. Dandy was sitting on a pile of feces that he was presumably eating in order to stay alive. He had no contact with humans.

A neighbor had finally called Animal Control when the weather started to become cold. Seattle Police escorted the Animal Control officers and Dandy off the property and back to the shelter where staff and volunteers promptly named the sick, emaciated dog "Dandy," fed him, bathed him, and put him to bed.

Dandy was very sick with kennel cough and had such a bad case of worms that the vet had to prescribe several small doses of medicine to prevent them from creating a blockage. The chain that he had lived on for several months had grown into his neck and severed the skin and muscle. Thanks to the **Help the Animals Fund**, the collar was surgically removed and his neck was treated.

Dandy was placed in a foster home. Everyday he grows stronger. We are amazed by the trust and affection he displays despite the abuse he must have endured. He is blossoming into a spirited little guy who is now available for adoption and will be a wonderful companion for a human who is gentle and kind. Dandy's energy and indomitable spirit are to be admired. To meet him, call (206) 615-0737. Please help us save others like Dandy. Report animal abuse to Seattle Animal Control at 386-4254 ext 2.



Today Dandy is thriving in his foster home with Betsy Wilski. Betsy says, "Despite everything Dandy has gone through, he is so trusting, dear, and goofy. He is sweet and as smart as can be. And he has a real zest for life."

Max shows his appreciation to foster dad, John Withey

and neck grew around

A neighbor called Animal Control because Max appeared to be bleeding at the neck. Seattle Animal Control officers went to Max's home. Max's caretaker claimed that one of her children had brought him home and left him in her backyard. She happily surrendered Max to the officer.

Thanks to the **Help the Animals Fund,** Max's collar was surgically removed, leaving a two-inch divet in his neck. Shelter Supervisor Virginia Dalton believes that Max must have been wearing the same flat collar since he was a newborn pup. His body

and neck grew <u>around</u> the collar. She claims that it is very rare for a flat, nylon collar (versus a chain-link collar) to grow into the neck because they do not apply as much pressure as chain collars. Max was placed in a foster home.

His foster parents are proud to announce that Max's neck is almost completely healed and that he is a wonderful dog who is constantly making them laugh. They are amazed at how resilient animals are. To meet Max, call (206) 615-0737.



Animal caretakers are violating the law if they fail to provide their animal with

- food, water, and shelter
- veterinary care
- sanitation, air, light, and appropriate space
- proper collars and grooming
- or if they have an excessive number of cats or dogs
- or if they are physically abusing their animal

SAVE A LIFE!

Leila (center) needed a foster home when the shelter became full. She feels right at home here with her foster siblings

FOSTER AN ANIMAL

Fostering a Puppy, Kitten, Dog or Cat in Your Home can Mean Life or Death

Fostering is simple. Shelter staff and volunteers match you up with a needy animal that will suit your lifestyle. All animals in foster care have their stories and photos posted on the **petshelter.net** and shelter web sites. With the help of staff, foster animals can be adopted right from your home. And you have the option of meeting all potential adopters and helping us find the best home for your foster animal. Any needed veterinary care will be paid for by generous donations to the **Help the Animals Fund.** All you provide is love, time, commitment, and your home. Fostering is a wonderful project for the whole family. There is no minimum commitment to fostering—foster only once and save a life. To learn more about Seattle Animal Shelter's foster care program, call (206) 615–0737.

"Fostering is the most rewarding thing

I've ever done. I take an animal into my home—a cat or dog that is sick, old, or not perfectly behaved. I know that this animal has one last chance, and that I will make the difference between his or her life and death. It is extraordinary to see an animal blossom when finally given the love and attention he or she deserves. I've fallen in love with every animal I've fostered—it's inevitable.

Watching my foster animal go to a new home is a completely gratifying, but bittersweet experience. Pictures and phone calls from adopters reassure me that the cat or dog is happy and loved. But I'd have to say that the happiest moments of fostering for me are watching a foster dog sleep contentedly at my feet after a long walk—at peace, for perhaps the first time in a long time, if ever. Or having a foster cat climb into my lap and purr, or watching kittens take their first wobbly step after recovering from terrible colds; these are the moments that make it all worthwhile."

—Arlene, foster mom and nurse to hundreds of cats and kittens



"Mama-Dog" was found tied to the door of the shelter one night. She gave birth to eight puppies shortly thereafter. Thanks to foster parents Nate and Connie (right), Mama-Dog raised her pups in the comfort of their home for eight weeks until they were ready for adoption.

Four of the eight puppies are pictured here with their new families—reunited with their mother and foster parents. (Nate and Connie adopted Mama-Dog).



"The only reason we don't adopt our foster 'kids' is because we would no longer have room for another."

-Gerry, foster dad and "dog whisperer" to dogs with behavior issues

"...fostering is a concrete way I can give these animals a chance to shine and find a new home."

-Kirsten, foster mom specializing in Rottweilers

Save the Kittens!

It is the time of year when kittens are born. There are too many kittens in the world. We need foster parents and homes for cute kittens. I'm going to be a foster parent if Seattle Animal Control lets me have a litter of kittens. My name is Jamie and I love cats so I hope you like cats too. Please call the shelter and get a litter of kittens. I hope you do!



Seven-year-old foster parent Jamie Wecker from Whittier Elementary School makes a plea to classmates in her school newsletter to foster this spring, which is "kitten season."

PET THERAPY

Program Gets Rave Reviews

Thirty volunteers and their own dogs particpate in the shelter's Pet Therapy Program. They visit several Seattle nursing homes two or three times a week. Their dogs have passed a required temperment test to ensure that they have excellent manners. Lots of different breeds participate—from tiny Poodles to enormous Mastiffs.

The Pastor of Columbia Lutheran Home, one of the nursing homes that the volunteers frequent, writes (right) about how "magical" it is when the volunteers visit with their dogs. To learn more about our Pet Therapy Program, call (206) 615-0820.

EMBRACING ALL GOD'S CREATURES

Six weeks ago our volunteer coordinator, Beth Hartman, asked me to assist some Sunday afternoon volunteers. They were people who had adopted their pets from the Seattle Animal Shelter and had volunteered to come here once a month and share their much-loved animals with our residents and families.

Now I've never been a "pet" person, but in that first magical hour of visiting with them I was "converted." The joy in people's eyes, words of appreciation, especially from the mouths of some people who barely speak, stories of pets from days gone by...these were just some of the reactions people had, which were so life-giving and whole-making. Since that time I've been able to make other arrangements, so that most Sundays at 1 p.m.we have dog visits as part of our afternoon activities.

St. Francis of Assisi had it right! As we embrace "all creatures of our God" and join our voices with theirs, we find our own spirits lifted. This, in part, is what has led some churches to honor St. Francis, each October 4, by bringing their pets with them to church for a special blessing. Even if you've not been a "pet" person, I invite you to open yourself to the ministry of these humble creatures of God, who in their affection, playfulness and determination, can show us a reflection of and be a channel for God's love.

Shalom, Pastor Thom



- Nylabones
- Kongs of all sizes
- ★ Plastic dog and cat airplane crates of all sizes
- Canned dog & cat food
- **★** Used washcloths
- **★** Four-Paws Nursers for young animals
- **★** Extra nipples for kitten bottles
- **★** A used wheelbarrow
- ★ 3 or 4 good used shovels
- **★** Gentle leaders all sizes
- **★** Dog seat belts
- **★** Plastic tablecloths
- **★** A van for the volunteers

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 10 Second Annual Furry 5K Seward Park, 9 a.m.

June 16 & 17 Volunteers and Shelter Dogs at the Fremont Fair

> June 16 Off-Leash Road Show, Magnusson Park, 1–3 p.m.

June 23, Sept 22 SAS Off-site Cat Adoption Days & Oct 27 Magnolia Community Center 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Month of June National Adopt-A-Cat Month

July 15 Off-Leash Road Show, Genessee Park, 1–3 p.m.

July 21 Dog Days of Summer Dog Adoption Day Bathhouse Theatre at Greenlake 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Aug 11 Off-Leash Road Show, Lincoln Park, 1-3 p.m.

Aug 19 National Adoptathon Seattle Animal Shelter 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

THANK YOU!

Acknowledgments

Holiday

We would like to thank Phil H. Webber and Rebecca Douglass for donating their time as photographers for our annual Santa Claws Event. We also would like to thank the 3 Dog Bakery for holding this fundraiser at their Seattle store. Seattle Film Works was very generous in supporting this effort by donating all the film and processing for the holiday photos.

A special thank-you from all the animals to IKEA for allowing our volunteers and dogs to greet its holiday customers in its parking lot during the holiday season.

Donated Food

Thank you to Lars Pardo for donating more than 1,000 lbs. of pet food to the anti-cruelty program. This donation was distributed to low-income homeless and kids living on the streets with their animals.

Lights, Camera, Action!

huge thank-you to Greg D'Elia of MLINEUM Production Studios and Jamie Andrews for producing our very first video on the Help the Animals Fund. Paul Rucker composed music for the video.

Best Dressed Dog

Our dogs will be sporting new adoption banners this spring on the runway at Green Lake and Myrtle Edwards Park thanks to the sewing expertise of Barbara Brown and Sharon Murphy.

SHELTER DOG SURVIVES 5-STORY JUMP DURING EARTHQUAKE

Prepare your Pets for the Next EarthquakeBy Ann Graves

On Wednesday, February 28, 2001, while the ground under Seattle shook, well-trained students dove under their desks, bewildered adults nervously tried to remember what to do, and dogs...well one dog...flew.

Topaz, a young Spaniel and Border Collie mix, had been adopted from the Seattle Animal Shelter just two days before the quake hit. She and her new human, John, were getting to know each other and things were going well. But when the earthquake hit, Topaz panicked and just had to get out. Finding an open window Topaz clawed and pushed her way through the screen and fell to the ground...five stories below. John raced home to check on his new companion and was horrified when he found the screen and Topaz's collar with her Seattle license tag on the ground below the window. But where was she? When he called the Seattle Animal Shelter to find out if anyone had turned her in, our hearts sank as we could only imagine what must have happened. Surely Topaz couldn't have survived that fall.

The next morning a woman arrived at the shelter with a stray dog she had found. Like many people she was apologetic. She thought the dog was just another stray that no one cared about, that no one would be looking for. Little did she know the black bundle of fur resting in the back of her car was a miracle...it was Topaz!

Officers Susan Adams and Ann Graves recognized Topaz immediately and a quick scan of her microchip verified it. Topaz was stiff and sore and her paws were blistered from walking for hours after the fall, but she was alive and well. Thanks to the microchip, John was notified 10 minutes after Topaz arrived at the shelter that his new best friend was safe.



Topaz is reunited with her dad after surviving a 5-story fall. Her story was featured in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Unfortunately many people are still looking for pets (especially cats) that took off during or after the earthquake. Our pets give us unconditional love. Please remember them when preparing for the worst so they can be there to help you through it.

PREPARE YOUR PETS

Have I.D. on all of your pets (even if they never go outside).

Make sure they have a collar with a license, rabies and name tag with phone number.

Have your pet microchipped in case the collar comes off!

Make sure you have current photos of your pets to aid in identification.

Have a plan. If you must evacuate, shelters set up for people rarely accept pets. It's important to know ahead of time where you can take your pets and how you will get them there. Have leashes and carriers ready for each animal in your home.

Keep vaccine (especially rabies) and important medical records with your other emergency supplies. Include phone numbers of your veterinarian and the closest emergency clinic.

When stocking up on water and food, include enough for your pets.

Make sure your first aid kit has things your pet may need as well (many pet stores now carry pet first aid kits).

Talk to your veterinarian about getting an extra supply of any medications your pet is taking and should not be without.

Graphic Design: Anne Treadwell



2061 15th Avenue West Seattle, WA 98119

Fighting Animal Cruelty

Reconnecting Owners with Lost Animals

Promoting the Spay and Neuter of All Pets

Rehabillitating Sick, Injured, and Abused Dogs and Cats